

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01001 211857Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EURE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 /100 W

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P R 211703Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1831

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, PO

SUBJ: INITIAL REACTIONS TO AND COMMENTS ON GOP'S ECONOMIC-
SOCIAL PROGRAM

REF: LISBON 981

1. INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PROGRAM (REFTEL) ARE GUARDED, WITH INTERESTED PARTIES
DELAYING FULL ASSESSMENT UNTIL THEY HAVE HAD TIME TO SIFT
THROUGH THE LENGTHY DOCUMENT.

2. THE CONFEDERATION OF PORTUGUESE INDUSTRY (CIP), FOR EXAMPLE,
WHICH CLAIMS TO BE THE SPOKESMAN FOR MOST OF THE PRIVATE
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, WILL AT THIS POINT SAY ONLY THAT IT WEL-
COMES THE "RULES" OF THE PLAN THAT SUPPORT GOVERNMENT-
BUSINESS COOPERATION AND PROVIDE FOR A "SANE ECONOMY."

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01001 211857Z

CIP, HOWEVER, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 25 ON THE PROGRAM. (GOP HAS SCHEDULED ITS OWN PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24.)

3. OUR PRELIMINARY SAMPLING OF INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSMEN SHOWS THEM TO BE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC AND RELIEVED THAT NONE OF THE WORST RUMORS (E.G., NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE COMMERCIAL BANKS) HAS MATERIALIZED.

4. FEBRUARY 21 "O SEculo" PRINTED RESPONSES TO FIVE QUESTIONS ON THE PROGRAM IT POSED TO THE THREE PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE QUESTIONS, IN ABBREVIATED FORM, WERE: (A) COULD OTHER CRITERIA FOR ELABORATION OF THE PLAN HAVE BEEN SELECTED; (B) WHAT ARE THE MOST ORIGINAL SOLUTIONS OFFERED IN THE REALM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; (C) ARE THE PROGRAM'S HIGH-LEVEL EMPLOYMENT AND ANTI-INFLATION POLICIES COMPATIBLE; (D) HOW CAN A CLIMATE PERMITTING EDUCATION AND HEALTH POLICIES ENUNCIATED IN PROGRAM BE CREATED; AND (E) WHAT PRIORITIES DOES YOUR PARTY ASSIGN TO THE SHROT-TERM MEASURES FORESEEN IN THE PROGRAM.

5. ALVARO CUNHAL FOR THE PCP AND JORGE CAMPINOS FOR THE PS RESPONDED TO ALL FIVE QUESTIONS, AND MAGALHAES MOTA FOR THE PPD RESPONDED TO ALL BUT QUESTION 3 (E). THESE ANSWERS, NOT VERY INSTRUCTIVE IN THEMSELVES, ARE NOTEWORTHY MORE FOR THEIR SIMILARITIES THAN FOR THEIR DIFFERENCES. ALL THREE, FOR EXAMPLE, ON SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT GROUNDS REJECT THE IDEA THAT OTHER CRITERIA FOR THE PLAN WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER. NONE SEEKS TO MAKE A REAL CASE THAT ANY OF THE SOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY THE PROGRAM ARE ORIGINAL, AND ALL THREE DUCK OR FUDGE ON THE ANSWER AS TO WHAT THE PRIORITY ORDERING OF SHORT-TERM MEASURES SPECIFIED IN THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE (PCP JUST NOTES EXAMPLES WHERE PCP'S AND PLAN'S POLICIES COINCIDE: PS SAYS SHORT-TERM MEASURES FORM A WHOLE WHICH CANNOT BE SEPARATED INTO PRIORITIES: AND PPD DOES NOT ANSWER AT ALL). AS FOR THE DIFFICULTY OF PURSUING ANTI-INFLATIONARY AND HIGH-EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AT THE SAME TIME, ALL THREE ACKNOWLEDGE THIS IS SO BUT DO NOT DIRECTLY ANSWER THE QUESTION WHETHER THE POLICIES IN THE PLAN ON THESE TWO ISSUES ARE RECONCILABLE.

6. COMMENT: THE "O SEculo" RESPONSES ARE EVIDENCE (A) THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01001 211857Z

THE THREE GOVERNMENT PARTIES WANT TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAVE PAPERED OVER THE DIFFERENCES THAT SEPARATED THEM DURING THE FORMULATION OF THE PROGRAM AND DELAYED ITS PUBLICATION AND (B) THAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SOME SOLIDARITY, AT LEAST ON PAPER, IN SUPPORT OF THE FINISHED VERSION.
CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0936
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750224/aaaaaveq.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 981
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL REACTIONS TO AND COMMENTS ON GOP'S ECONOMIC- SOCIAL PROGRAM
TAGS: ECON, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006